(b) In the new scheme, the existing vacancy based promotion system has been replaced by a merit-based promotion system under flexible complementing, i.e. automatic up-gradation of posts for promotions. The new scheme will enhance the promotion of the concerned personnel sustantially. Steps for implementation of the scheme have already been initiated and the scheme is expected to be implemented iu later half of 1995.

Decommossioning of aircraft carriers

2581. SHRI JADGISH PRASAD MATHUR : SHRI HIPHEI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that INS Vikrant and INS Virat the two aircraft carriers, are to be decommissioned in the next few years; -

(b) What steps Government have taken for the replacement of these two naval ships;

(c) whether it is a fact that high Naval J Officials have expressed apprehensions on the replacement of the two ships due to re-source crunch; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) As per its anticipated life span, INS Vikrant is scheduled for decommissioning soon. INS Virat on the other hand is quite a few years away from the time when its decommissioning will be considered.

(b) Government are alive to the require-rnents of the Navy.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The country has had to face financial constraints during the past few years which have also had an impact on the Defence Budget. Moreover, available resources have to be allocated taking into account the threat perceptions, the capabilities of our potential adversaries and the inter se priorities fixed basfd on the above considerations.

Miltary traing is schools and colleges

2582. SHRI TINDIVNAM G. VENKA-TRAMAN : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to strte :

(a) whether Government propose to intro-duce compulsory military training for the youth in schools and colleges;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether military science is taught at Higher Secondary Level as per the prinlciple "Catch them Young"; and

(d) if not, by when this scheme is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALI IK ARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Introduction *of* compulsory military training is not considered to be consonant with the democratic ethos of our Country. Moreover, the benefits accuring therefrom are not likely to commensurate with the enormous expenditure which would be involved in such an effort.

(c) and (d) Teaching of Military Science as a part of the curriculum for the school stage has not been recommended by the NCERT.

Replacement of naral Teasels

2583. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has deen drawn to the reports published in the 'Observer' of November 29, 1994 and 'Indian Express' of December *2,* 1994 relating *to* the decline in the Naval power;

(b) if so, what are the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether most of the Naval vessels, aircraft carriers and submarines are near-ing completion of their useful life, requiring replacement in the near future;

(d) if so, what are the details in this re. gard;